

Total and Permanent Disability Exemptions

Ad Valorem Property Taxes Waived

If you are a quadriplegic, paraplegic, hemiplegic or other totally and permanently disabled person who must use a wheelchair for mobility or who is legally blind, and meets the income qualifications, or

If you are a honorably discharged veteran with a service connected total and permanent disability, surviving spouse of the qualifying veteran, or, the spouse of the veteran who died from service connected causes while on active duty as a member of the US Armed Forces, **you may be eligible for additional exemptions.**

Visit our website or call our office for more information.

Disabled Veterans Homestead Property Tax Discount %

If you are a Veteran age 65 or older and qualify for a homestead exemption, you may be eligible for this discount if you meet all of the following conditions:

- Honorably discharged from military service
- Partially disabled with a permanent service connected disability that is combat related

The discount is equal to the percentage of the veterans permanent service connected disability rating as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Did you know you are allowed only one residency based tax exemption?

It is illegal for a person or married couple (family unit) who claim homestead exemption in Florida to receive an additional "residency based exemption/benefit" in another state.

Pursuant to Sections 193.155(9) and 196.161 of the Florida Statutes, property owners who benefit from improperly exempted tax savings will have a tax lien placed against their properties, be taxed for up to 10 prior years (as applicable), be required to pay a sizeable penalty (50% of the unpaid taxes for each year), and pay interest at a rate of 15% per year.

You May Also Qualify for Additional Exemptions

Widow/Widower Exemption - \$500 Credit in Assessed Value. An application must be filed for this exemption and a copy of the deceased spouse's Death Certificate may also be required.

Disability Exemption - \$500 Credit in Assessed Value
If applying for the first time, you will need to present a Physician's Certification of Total and Permanent Disability, DR-416, prepared by a Florida physician.

Blind Disability Exemption - \$500 Credit in Assessed Value. Property owner must be legally blind as determined by a physician or optometrist who must complete form DR-416 or DR-416B respectively.

Disabled Veteran - \$5000 Credit in Assessed Value
Any ex-service member who is a permanent resident of Florida and is disabled at least 10% in war or by service-connected disability may be entitled to this exemption. A veteran's surviving spouse may be able to retain this exemption.

Deployed Military - Credit amount varies
Grants an additional ad valorem tax discount on the homestead of servicemembers who were deployed in the preceding calendar year on active duty in support of certain operations. (Visit our website for additional information)

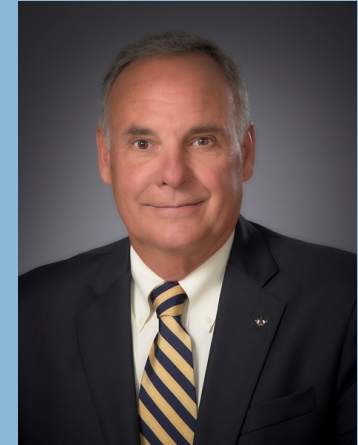
FILE FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION ONLINE

Whether you are a new homeowner or have recently moved to a new permanent residence, you **must** file in order to receive the Homestead exemption benefit.

Filing online is free and easy

The most convenient way to file for Homestead is through our online filing system. Visit our website at www.SC-PA.com and click on the Homestead tab. The system will take you through a series of simple questions after which you will be able to submit your filing request.

Property Exemptions mean savings for you



Bill Furst SARASOTA COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

Office Locations

Sarasota - Main Office
2001 Adams Lane, Sarasota, FL 34237

Venice Office
4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 115,
Venice, FL 34293

Phone: 941.861.8200 Fax: 941.861.8260
Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
www.SC-PA.com

North Port Office (Limited Services)
Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
North Port City Hall, 4970 City Hall Blvd.
North Port, FL 34286

Homestead Exemption

Up to \$50,000 Savings

Every person who is a Florida resident, owns and resides on real property in Florida on January 1 and makes the property their permanent residence, is eligible to receive a homestead exemption of up to \$50,000.

You must apply for the exemption by March 1 of the current tax year. You will need to provide the following information for yourself and, if married, for your spouse (if both applying).

1. **Evidence of ownership** such as a copy of your deed that has been recorded in Public Records, a tax bill or your Notice of Proposed Property Taxes (TRIM).

2. **Evidence of permanent Florida residency**

All applicants must present: a valid Florida Drivers License updated with the current address. If you do not drive, you must show a Florida ID issued by the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles.

You must also provide, at minimum, one of the following:

Florida vehicle registration

Proof of Florida voter registration (must reflect permanent residence address)

A formal declaration of domicile recorded in the public records of Sarasota County

Or, at minimum, two of the following:

Employment verification (W-2 form or paystub referencing permanent address)

Previous residency exemption termination (date of sale or cancellation of exemption at previous primary residence)

Evidence of location where the applicant's dependent children are registered for school

Federal income tax returns listing the permanent residence address

Proof of payment for utilities or bank statements or checking account information mailed to address for which the permanent residency is being claimed

3. **Social Security numbers** are required by law for all owners who reside on the property. **Married individuals must always provide their spouse's social security number, whether or not the spouse's name appears on the deed.**

4. **Permanent Resident Aliens** who are not U.S. citizens will also need to provide their Alien Registration Card (green card)

What is required to be a Permanent Resident?

Do you have a neighbor who is away from their home most of the year and you wonder if they have a legal homestead exemption? Did you recently relocate to Florida and have questions about the residency requirements here because they may be different from the state where you lived before? We frequently receive questions about this important subject and hope the following information provides a clear explanation of what it means to have permanent residency in Florida.

The legal language from the Florida statutes defines Permanent Residence as the following:

"Permanent Residence" means that place where a person has his or her true, fixed and permanent home and principal establishment to which, whenever absent, he or she has the **intention of returning**. A person may have **only one permanent residence at a time...** §196.012(18) F.S.

What are the rules about residing on your property?

Florida law states that in order for the property to be considered your permanent residence for the current tax year, you must meet the following three requirements:

1. It is your present intent to make the property your permanent residence.
2. You have legal or equitable title to the property on January 1.
3. You reside on the property on January 1 and in good faith make it your permanent residence.

In 1997, the Florida Attorney General interpreted "reside on" to mean that you do not have to "physically occupy" the property on January 1st in order to be eligible for a Homestead Exemption during the current tax year, as long as the other residency factors are met. Visit our website to view residency factors.

This means that if you are not physically occupying your home on January 1st due to travel, hospitalization or stay in a convalescent facility, and, you do not rent the property, you may continue to be eligible for a homestead exemption as long as you have: legal title to the property, it is your permanent residence, your intent is to return to this property, and you continue to meet the residency requirements.

Senior Exemption With Limited Income

If you qualify for the homestead exemption you may be eligible for the senior exemption, should you meet all of the following conditions:

- At least one of the resident property owners is 65 years of age or older on January 1 of the current tax year.
- Meets the annual household adjusted gross income limit. (*Visit our website or call our office for more detail*)
- Submits a sworn statement of household income to the property appraiser by March 1 of every year.
- Provides copies of the Federal IRS return for all residents in the household by June 1.

Senior Benefit amount depends on where you live.

Important Dates to Remember

January 1

Effective date of residency and ownership requirement to qualify for homestead exemption

March 1

Filing deadline for the current tax year for:
Homestead Exemption
Other Exemptions & Tax Discounts

April 1

Tangible Personal Property filing deadline

August

Mailing of annual Notice of Proposed Ad Valorem Taxes (TRIM) & Non-Ad Valorem Assessments

Tax bills are mailed by the Tax Collector in November. Questions about your tax bill should be directed to the Sarasota County Tax Collector's Office.

HELP US PREVENT HOMESTEAD FRAUD

If you know or suspect someone of having an illegal homestead or exemption, please contact our office. You may do so confidentially at 941.861.8200 or at www.SC-PA.com under Homestead Fraud.